



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor announces new drive to beat drugs

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, has announced a \$30 million package of measures to combat the growing problem of drug abuse by young people.

Mr Patten revealed 26 initiatives covering law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and research at the end of Hong Kong's first-ever summit on drugs held at the Loke Yew Hall of Hong Kong University.

The summit drew together about 250 representatives of the community, including members of Legco, District Boards, the Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), voluntary agencies, District Fight Crime Committees, teachers, social workers and parents.

The Governor also announced at the summit the latest statistics which showed a continuing rise in the pattern of drug abuse among young people which has alarmed the community.

The statistics for 1994 showed a 22 per cent increase in the number of young drug abusers reported for the first time in 1994 over 1993. Last year's figure was 2,748. The 1993 figure itself was 57 per cent more than in 1992.

"So the growth rate is still distressingly high," Mr Patten warned.

"A complex challenge confronts us. It cannot be tackled by one section of the community along. It has to be tackled together."

Mr Patten also asked the Chairman of ACAN, Professor Chen Char-nie, and the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Alasdair Sinclair, to set up a special action group to follow up all new suggestions made at the summit.

"We have heard some very imaginative and positive ideas put forward by members of the community familiar with this problem and we want to look at them closely," Mr Patten said.

The special action group will submit its recommendations to the Governor in three months.

Today's summit was divided into four sessions: addressing the areas of law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and research.

The Governor said: "When I suggested the idea of a drugs summit a few months ago, I was determined that this should not be a one-off public relations flourish, achieving a bit of publicity for a day or so, then falling off everyone's agenda.

"So in anticipation of our summit meeting today I asked my officials from all parts of the Government machine involved in the fight against drugs to work together to draw up a Forward Action Plan."

The measures included in the Forward Action Plan include:

- * Amending the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance to make it even more difficult for drug traffickers to launder and retain their illicit profits from drug trafficking;

- * Amending the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance to increase the maximum penalties for offences of illegal or improper sale of drugs;

- * Extending the Superintendent's Discretion Scheme to allow young people arrested for the first time for minor drug offences to be cautioned instead of prosecuted;

- * Stepping up inspections of pharmacies by the Department of Health;

- * Increasing the Police Narcotics Bureau's surveillance activities with 38 additional police officers;

- * Extending controls of chemicals that are used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;

- * The Attorney General applying to the Court of Appeal for a review of the sentencing guidelines for possession of cannabis for unlawful trafficking;

- * Setting up a Drug Education Resource Centre next year to support the implementation of drug education programmes in schools;

- * Developing a new General Studies syllabus for primary schools to enhance students' self-esteem;

* Forming a special team of social workers in the Social Welfare Department this October to help about 500 drug abusers a year;

* Setting up two additional residential centres for young opiate abusers and a new counselling centre for young abusers;

* Expanding the Hospital Authority's treatment services for psychotropic substance abusers.

In addition, the Government will allocate an additional \$1 million in 1995/96 for drug-related research.

It is estimated that the measures will cost about \$30 million over this year.

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after today's (Monday) Summit Meeting on Drugs:

Governor: Drug abuse is a growing problem world-wide and it's a growing problem here in Hong Kong. Our difficulties aren't yet as bad as they are in some other communities and we certainly don't want them to be. But the figures don't look good and the figures have been getting worse, and if we're to prevent the sort of disaster that has hit so many other communities we've got to take action quickly and we've got to work together as a community, all of us, to beat drugs. That was the purpose of this afternoon's Summit, to get together people from right across the community who have a role in the fight against drugs and to tap their experience and their wisdom and their advice, to see what more we can do as Government.

We're going to consider the ideas put forward this afternoon. I'm setting up a Review Team under ACAN to consider all the ideas that have been put forward and to report to me personally within three months. We've also announced as a sort of payment on account our own Forward Action Plan today containing almost 30 points of action that we are going to take as Government, covering penalties, covering enforcement, covering facilities for education and research, and of course for prevention and rehabilitation.

We all as a community have to work together to beat this scourge. I think that's the view of this community, I think it's the view of parents in this community. We owe it to our young people and I'm sure that just as we've led the way and blazed trails in other areas of economic and social life, so we can do so in this one as well.

Question: Governor Patten, do you see this as a long -- I mean don't you feel like you should be extending these remedies for the long term? For example, some people think the problem is not directly that children are out on the streets taking drugs, it's more of a social problem with the homes they live in and they live practically on top of one another, many students only go to school half-day and they have a lot of extra time on their hands. So shouldn't it be attacked more from the angle where, you know, you're going to address these social problems that can lead up to drugs?

Governor: I don't doubt at all that we need long term solutions, and sensible and comprehensive long term solutions require a lot more research. One of the surprising things is how little research has been done on the causes, as well as the cures, here in Hong Kong. Interestingly, if you compare Hong Kong with other communities where drug abuse is on the increase, we don't have a lot of the social problems which they have. For example, in some other communities high levels of youth unemployment are associated with drug abuse and that isn't a problem here in Hong Kong but there may be other social difficulties that we've got which are causing an increase in drug abuse and one of our contributors this afternoon made a very, I thought, eloquent plea for more research. But more research can't be a justification for not taking action now, so we have to act in the short term as well as the long term and that's why we're proposing to do more in our schools, that's why we're proposing to give more resources to our Police and that's why we're proposing to give more resources to our Social Welfare Department.

Question: Yes, bearing in mind your decision ... centres being set up, does the Government have any practical solutions for speeding up that process?

Governor: It's a very real process and it's not, as you know, one that just exists in this particular field. But it is a reminder of the importance of working with communities, working through District Boards with communities, to explain to people exactly why the facilities are necessary for Hong Kong and exactly why how things would be worse if we didn't establish these facilities. That point, I think, was particularly well put by Dr Margaret Chan, our Director of Health, in her answer to questions.

Question: ... deadline ... centres as to when they'll be set up?

Governor: We will set them up as soon as we can but obviously we have to go through the normal planning procedures. Any more on drugs?

Question: How will you co-ordinate all the plans?

Governor: How will we co-ordinate our plans? Well, first of all ACAN will be undertaking the review of all the ideas that were put forward this afternoon. They will be reporting to me within three months. The Commissioner of Narcotics will be the main focus in Government for pulling together this programme but obviously I will be taking a particularly close personal interest in it myself.

Question: Governor Patten, some schools have quite severe programmes for students of theirs in testing drugs including ... (inaudible) So how ...do you think it is for schools, independent of Government, to foster programmes ... on their own for their own students?

Governor: Well, a good school, among other things, is a community and as a community it helps prepare children, young people, for the wider community. I think that where good schools are taking initiatives of their own that work, they're to be encouraged and commended. What's more we should try to learn from the example of some schools what works and what may not work. I feel very strongly that not only in this field but in others, it is not sufficient to assume that whatever we have been doing must be the right approach. I think that we need to ensure that we target our efforts and our resources on the things that have the best chance of success and that's true in health education and lifestyle education at schools. It's also true when you come to rehabilitation and treatment of abusers. So I think in a lot of areas we've got to have the humility as Government and as non-governmental organisations and the schools, to look, as somebody said this-afternoon, radically, at what we are doing, try to learn from one another and try to put into place what best works.

Question: Are you saying that you would like to see more of ... Hong Kong in some ... (inaudible)

Governor: I'd like to see more treatment facilities in Hong Kong and that's one of the things we've proposed in the Forward Action Plan. But I also want to try to ensure that the sorts of treatment and rehabilitation that we apply are the ones that are most likely to work, are the ones that are most likely to be effective. And I think that several of the speakers when they were talking about the importance of looking searchingly at what we do, were focusing particularly on that issue.

Question: The Democratic Party got most of the seats and Elsie Tu an experienced politician lost her seat and Szeto Wah who was named by the Chinese side as counter-revolutionary got the seat. So what's your comment?

Governor: I don't think it's appropriate for me to comment on the outcome of the elections but as for the process of the elections, I think they went extremely successfully. We had a record voter registration, we had a record number of candidates and we had the largest number of people ever voting in the Municipal Council Elections. It was just another example of Hong Kong's maturing as a community and I'm sure that the two Municipal Councils will work very effectively in the interests of the whole community. I'm sure that people will have noticed that those who were going out to vote yesterday were keeping a very close eye on local affairs and I'm sure will keep a very close eye on those that they have elected and that is one of the important reasons for accountability in representative government.

Okay. Thank you very much.

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Governor's opening statement at drugs summit meeting

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Following is the opening statement by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at the Governor's Summit Meeting on Drugs today (Monday):

Good Afternoon,

I'd like to welcome all of you very warmly to this Summit Meeting on Drugs this afternoon.

It is very good to see so many faces. I am grateful to all of you for coming today and for giving your support to this important campaign.

We are here in my judgment on crucial work. We are brought together by a concern, which is shared throughout the community, at the worrying and the persistent increase in drug abuse, particularly amongst the young.

It is perhaps salutary to remind ourselves of the figures. Between 1989 and 1993, the number of reported drug abuses overall rose by 15 per cent. That figure itself is bad enough. But the number under the age of 21 increased by 147 per cent. Over 50 per cent of newly reported cases are now young people. The statistics for 1994 have just become available and I am able to announce them today. The number of young drug abusers reported for the first time in 1994 was 2,748. This is a 22 per cent increase over the number first reported in 1993, which itself was 57 per cent more than in 1992.

So the growth rate is still distressingly high. We have here today at this meeting representatives of many parts of our community: members of the Legislative Council, District Boards, voluntary agencies, District Fight Crime Committees, teachers, social workers, parents, Government officials, people whose work in one way or another brings them into contact with young people and the problem of illicit drugs.

I have invited such a large and diverse group because I wanted to tap the experience and the energies of as wide a cross-section of expertise as possible. A complex challenge confronts us all. It can't be tackled by one section of the community alone. It has to be tackled together. And together I believe that we can beat drugs.

Seated with me at these tables are officials and distinguished members of the community, many pre-eminent in their own field of knowledge or experience on the issue of drug abuse. I will be asking a number of them to make brief statements this afternoon, to share their expertise and their ideas with us.

Our programme will be divided into four separate items: first law enforcement, then preventive education, then treatment and rehabilitation, and finally research.

For each item, we'll begin with a number of short prepared presentations. Then I throw the topic open to contributions from the floor. I want your ideas and I want your advice, both about what the Government can do, but also about what the community as a whole, or sectors of the community, or groups at the district level, can do to half the growing trend in drug abuse by young people.

When I call for comments from the floor please do feel free to put up your hands. I'll ask you to go to one of the three microphones in the central aisle and speak from there. I hope that when people do speak they will do their best to keep their comments short and to the point, simply so that as many people as possible will have a chance to speak. If we do run out of time and we don't have time to hear everybody, which is I guess inevitable, there are two boxes at the back of the hall into which you can place any written views that you would like taken into account.

Equally of course, if you want to get in touch with me, or ACAN, or the Commissioner for Narcotics after this meeting, with views that you would like to express today but didn't have the time to express, we'll want to hear from you.

At the end of the meeting, I will try to pull the strands together and suggest how we might move forward.

Just let me repeat one thing I have said. This afternoon, we haven't got very long. I know that many of you spend your lives dealing with this issue. So the prospect of getting so much informed experience, so much knowledge expressing itself during a short afternoon, the possibility of that is remote. But first, this is not the one and only time we'll have to discuss this. I shall want to do this again and I shall want between now and our next Summit to see as many of you as possible, those of you who are working with agencies on the ground, I'll hope to be able to see quite a few of you over the next year or so.

And I say that because when I look at the statistics right across the board, everything in Hong Kong, every sort of social need or social deprivation, the good statistics and the bad statistics, the one thing which stands out like the sorest of thumbs is that things starting to go wrong in this particular area. So I do think we have to spend a lot of time on it. Secondly, I hope that when you set out your ideas about what needs to be done, you'll be as crisp as positive about it as possible. And I am sure while you'll be able to produce an agenda of things for us to spend more money on, and I do want to say that I don't think this is an area which should be too constrained by resources. While I am sure you'll do that, I hope you will also let us know if there are areas where we are at present doing things or spending money where frankly we'll be better off saving our money and putting it elsewhere because there is a tendency in Government to assume that whatever is being done at any given moment is pluperfect and anything additional should be added to it. And I don't think that makes for good government; I don't think it makes for good policy, and I don't think it makes for a very effective use of resources.

I repeat I know that not all of you will be able to get in this afternoon, we'll include as many of you as possible and I hope that those of you who don't manage to speak today will be able to talk to me at some future time or put in your views to us directly or to ACAN over the next few months. But I want to say more about that at the end.

We will now begin with the topic of drugs and law enforcement. And to start us off, and I say this after having being recently to the Narcotics Bureau and been impressed by what I saw there, but to start things off, I'd like to ask the Commissioner, Eddie Hui, to say a few words. Eddie.

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Governor's closing statement at drugs summit meeting

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The following is a transcript of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's closing statement at the Drugs Summit today (Monday):

We've had a long and wide-ranging debate during the last almost three hours and I don't want to keep you any longer. I have found it very useful indeed and I hope others have found it useful as well. I am extremely grateful to all those of you who participated, very grateful to all those of you who shared your knowledge and experiences with us, both from the table of panelists and from the floor as well. You've been extremely patient and very well behaved.

Let me try to sum up and suggest where we might go from here. And I say very deliberately where we might go from here because this is not the end of the road.

When I suggested the idea of a Drugs Summit, a few months ago, I was determined that this shouldn't be a one-off public relations flourish, achieving a bit of publicity for a day or so, and then falling off everyone's agenda. I've been around for long enough to know that success lies not in the main event but in keeping up momentum and in keeping up progress long after it's over.

It will of course be for all parts of the community - for voluntary agencies, for District Boards, for Fight Crime Committees, for schools, for parents and so on - to play their part. We need to mobilise the whole community if we are going to win the war against drugs. But it is right that the Government should lead the way in this and that the Government should set an example. So in anticipation of our Summit Meeting today I asked my officials from all parts of the Government machine involved in the fight against drugs to work together to draw up a Forward Action Plan.

It is not a wishy-wash statement of interest. But it's a detailed list of concrete actions which the Hong Kong Government will be taking and setting out who in Government will be responsible for these actions. So that you can actually pinpoint the responsibility.

Some of these are actions which are in the pipeline; others are completely new initiatives. Together they add up to a total package of measures costing some \$30 million in the 1995/96 financial year.

I just want to make clear that we are not and never should be in a position where it's merely good enough to offer up a good idea in an important course and you can get the financing for it. I don't think that's good government. But I do think we recognise in Government that work in this area has to have priority if we have to stop slithering down the slope which other communities have found themselves descending to their huge damage. So good ideas we will look at positively and we will be as generously as our budget allows.

I just want to go over some of those measures in a moment and we will make available a full list, a full list of our Forward Action Plan to everyone at the end of the meeting.

But this isn't the end of the story. This is the Government's contribution, its payment on account if you like, to kick-start our "Beat Drugs" campaign. Some of these measures in fact address, in full or in part, concerns that we have heard during the discussion here today, many of which the Government shares.

But there have been other concerns, other ideas, other initiatives set out today, which aren't covered in our Forward Action Plan.

A number of their contributions have particularly struck me and it's perhaps invidious to name names. But I've been very struck by what's been said about research, the inadequacy of research, the importance of basing the development of policy on a rational approach. I was struck by one or two contributions which remain saying that there wasn't much point in having this sort of discussion unless we were prepared to have a radical look at what we were doing and what we should do. I was very struck by what was said earlier about the importance of involving the people at whom the publicity is targeted, in drawing up publicity in the first place. And I was struck by what people said about sentencing and about the views of the community on the facilities which are available for drug abusers.

Well, one of the main purposes of this Summit was to share ideas and to seek to build joint solutions from them. I am therefore going to ask the Chairman of ACAN and the Commissioner for Narcotics to set up a special action group from within ACAN to review as a matter of urgency all the constructive proposals that have been put forward at this discussion today and to report to me personally within three months, with recommendations as to what future action should be taken.

We will ensure that participants at this Summit are kept informed of progress, both on the recommendations of this special action group, and on the Government's Forward Action Plan. I propose that we have another Summit in a year's time to report progress and to give further impetus to the campaign.

Let me now turn to the main items of the Government's Forward Action Plan. We have grouped these into the same four categories as the discussion here this afternoon. They are the main points in our Forward Action Plan, not the only points in our Forward Action Plan.

First, Law Enforcement

We will be introducing amendments to the Drug Trafficking (Recovery of Proceeds) Ordinance in this legislative session to make it even more difficult for drug traffickers to launder and retain their illicit profits from drug trafficking.

We will be seeking this legislative session to increase the maximum penalties for the illegal or improper sale of drugs.

We will be adding 38 Police Officers to the Police Narcotics Bureau, a bureau which I have seen for myself does a superb job, to help the bureau to increase its surveillance activities.

We will increase inspections of pharmacies, a point that was made in the outset, from 560 to 700 per month by September this year and set up a special task force to help the prosecution of offending drug retailers.

We will extend statutory licensing controls to 21 precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

District Offices throughout the territory will be taking action within the next three months to convene meetings at the district level to co-ordinate local efforts against drugs. We hope to get District Boards, District Fight Crime Committees, education authorities, law enforcement agencies, social work teams, housing authorities and all other agencies involved together in this process.

The Attorney-General will make a case to the courts for a review of the sentencing guidelines for possession of cannabis for unlawful trafficking.

On Preventive Education

We will be setting up a new Drug Education Resource Centre in 1996 to support the implementation of drug education programmes in schools.

We will hold two drug education courses this year to train 120 secondary school teachers; and similar courses for 120 primary teachers.

We will be producing a special video targeted at parents, on the handling of drug problems among their children. This will be distributed to schools and youth organisations and PTA and so on.

We will be developing a new General Studies Syllabus for primary schools to enhance pupils' self-esteem and to help them decide to lead a drug-free life.

We will be carrying out a major anti-drug publicity campaign throughout the year, including an anti-drug event in every district, a special TV programme, radio shows in public housing estates, and an International Anti-Drug Day exhibition in June.

On Treatment and Rehabilitation

But in announcing this I do want to make clear that we do understand a need to tackle the problem in getting some of these facilities going because of community concerns. We will be aiming to set up two additional residential treatment centres for young opiate abusers and a new counselling centre for young abusers.

The Hospital Authority will establish six drug abuse clinics which will treat about 300 patients a year.

Social Welfare Department will set up in October 1995 a team of specially trained social workers to help about 500 drug abusers a year.

Finally on Research

The Government, and this is initial, I don't doubt that we will need to do more, the Government will make available an additional \$1 million for drug-related research to help us gain a better understanding of the drug situation. But we'll need to look sympathetically at further sensible proposals for more research because I was very very struck by what Professor Hedley said in his comments.

A lot of points this afternoon, good points, sensible points, points on which we will have to respond and points which will be considered by the review team that I have mentioned earlier. So I hope that we'll be able to convince all of you, even if we don't do everything you want that we have looked at it seriously and sensibly in a rational way and try to use your experience, your expertise, your ideas to put together a coherent strategy.

We've obviously got a busy year ahead. One reason for having another Summit this time next year is to make sure that you know that we haven't just sat back after this meeting and thought that we've done everything that was required.

We hope that these actions and measures, coupled with follow-up on a number of the other proposals coming from you during the last three hours, will give a really big boost to our campaign because this really is one battle which the whole community wants to win. I don't think that we should let people down. We mustn't let our young people down. As our slogan says: "Together, we can beat drugs". Together, I really believe that we can do it.

Hong Kong has pointed the way in very many areas of economic and social life in the last 40, 45 years. Hong Kong has done some things which the rest of the world might have thought impossible. I think it would be nice if in five or ten years' time we could add our ability to deal with, cope with, constrain drug abuse. I think it would be nice if we can add that to our list of achievements. I think we owe it to our young people at least to have a go and I am grateful to all of you for being part of that campaign. Thank you very much.

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No appeal against court's decision on election petition

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In response to media enquiries, a Government spokesman said today (Monday) that the Administration would not appeal against the court's decision regarding the eligibility of Mr Lau San- ching to stand for the September 1994 District Board election.

The spokesman explained that the court, as it emphasised, was only applying the established legal principle on the concept of "ordinary residence" to the particular facts and circumstances of Mr Lau's case. No new legal principle was involved.

"The ruling should not therefore have any significant impact for legislation, including electoral legislation, which employ the 'ordinary residence' concept," he said.

In future, each nomination for candidature will, as now, be considered on its own merits, having regard to the relevant facts and circumstances, including the reasons for any prolonged absence during the 10-year qualifying period, and the individual's mode of life before the qualifying period, the spokesman said.

On the length of the qualifying period, the spokesman said the Administration was actively reviewing the requirement in the light of the court's comments.

It hopes to be able to come to a view quickly for consultation with the Legislative Council and the community.

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Plans to achieve housing production targets

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The Secretary for Housing, Mr Dominic Wong, today (Monday) outlined plans to achieve the housing production targets of 504,000 flats at affordable prices or rents in the next six years, or an average of 84,000 flats a year.

Mr Wong said: "Our targets are to ensure that there will be 141,000 public rental units, 148,000 subsidised home ownership scheme flats and 20,000 Sandwich Class sale flats provided by the Housing Authority and the Housing Society, and 195,000 private sector flats coming on stream between 1995-96 and 2000-2001 to meet housing demand in the public and private sectors.

"As one of the first steps to accomplish these goals, public expenditure on housing, including that for the Housing Authority, will increase by 10.7 per cent to \$24.99 billion in 1995-96. This accounts for 12.25 per cent of the total public expenditure.

"We have also set up the Housing Project Action Team under my chairmanship to monitor, facilitate and expedite housing development in both the public and private sectors.

"We are now fast-tracking 19 projects which will eventually produce 32,300 flats. We are also monitoring closely another 19 sites for the production of another 61,300 units in both the public and private sectors," Mr Wong said.

The Secretary for Housing also revealed that the Government had set aside \$8 billion at the disposal of his branch in the next few years to speed up infrastructure projects essential to housing development. The sum will be used mainly to fast-track land formation, water supply, road improvement and building projects.

"We have just commissioned a consultancy study on the redevelopment potential of the entire territory. Five other studies will also be undertaken to assess the housing development potential of about 170 hectares of land.

"The latter will include, for example, several sites in the urban area, Sham Tseng Reclamation, Tin Shui Wai Reserve Zone, former military sites and the land reserve at Ma On Shan.

"To assist us in evaluating housing needs in Hong Kong, an interdepartmental working group is conducting a systematic and comprehensive assessment of the scale and composition of housing demand.

"The results, to be ready by mid-1995, will provide the basis for a review of our Long Term Housing Strategy for the period after 2001. The review will commence at the end of this year."

In order to strengthen monitoring of housing supply, "we are in the process of establishing an interdepartmental information system, based in the Rating and Valuation Department, which can give early warning of any slippage or change in housing development plans and better monitoring of the activities and movements in the local property market.

"We are also examining ways to computerise the Land Disposal Inventory System which will facilitate the preparation of the five-year land sale programme," Mr Wong said.

"To cope with the additional work, we hope to create 98 posts in the relevant departments in 1995-96.

"We have also set up a Flat Supply Sub-committee to monitor and advise on matters concerning the housing supply and demand, and the residential property market in general.

"The sub-committee, under my chairmanship, provides a useful forum for exchange of views with non-government members from housing-related organisations."

The Secretary for Housing confirmed that "the anti-speculation measures introduced in June last year are achieving the desired result and should continue to remain in force.

"Any relaxation will likely encourage speculative activities again and push up property prices.

"We will continue to provide more land for housing and increase the supply of flats. We have no intention of introducing further intervention measures, and will let the market adjust itself. We will monitor developments in the property market closely.

"On the clearance of urban squatters and old Temporary Housing Areas (THA)," Mr Wong said, "our target is to rehouse all urban squatters on Government land by March 1996 and to clear by the end of 1996 all THAs built before 1984."

Mr Wong also repeated his public appeal to all occupants of illegal rooftop structures, who are eligible for public housing, to come forward to register with the Housing Authority and place themselves on the general waiting list first.

"This is the proper way to ensure that they will obtain public housing," the Secretary for Housing said.

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Royal Observatory issues daily radioactivity readings

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With effect from tomorrow (Tuesday), the Royal Observatory will issue once a day information about the ambient gamma radiation dose rates recorded by its radiation monitoring network in the territory.

The radioactivity readings will be included in its weather bulletin issued shortly after midnight to meet the printing deadlines for morning newspapers.

Every month, the Royal Observatory publishes in a bulletin daily readings of the ambient gamma radiation levels recorded by its radiation monitoring network. These monthly bulletins are available to interested members of the public free of charge.

From readings taken during the period 1987 - 1993, the background ambient gamma radiation dose rates in Hong Kong may vary between 0.06 and 0.3 microsievert per hour.

Since the Guangdong Nuclear Power Station at Daya Bay began operation in early 1994, the ambient gamma radiation dose rate in Hong Kong has shown no noticeable increase above these values.

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Listing of Mai Po as Ramsar Site

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Approval has been given by the Governor-in-Council to list Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention as Hong Kong's contribution to a worldwide effort to conserve wetlands of significant ecological, scientific and recreational value.

The decision to list the 1,500-hectare wetland as a Ramsar site is another major step forward in conserving the Mai Po Marshes as a nature reserve for public enjoyment and in protecting it against development incompatible with the environment.

The Mai Po Marshes is the last of remaining wetland of its size in Hong Kong. It is a "refuelling station" for migratory birds including many rare and endangered species which rely on it for feeding and resting in their long flight.

The area is also significant for its conservation value for the number of local animal species it supports. Also, over a dozen invertebrate species new to science have been discovered in the area.

Its significance is also borne out by the fact that alternative sites with large mangrove stands in the region are fast diminishing in number and extent due to development.

The intention to list Mai Po as a Ramsar site was announced in June 1993 and was reaffirmed by the Governor in his Policy Address last year.

The listing will entail active conservation management which may include creation and restoration of habitats for the waterfowl, ecological survey and monitoring, vegetation and wildlife management and establishment and maintenance of visitor centres and education facilities.

A comprehensive management plan for the area will be developed upon the completion of a consultancy study by wetland ecologists.

A publicity programme will be carried out to explain the listing. Relevant bodies will be consulted on the conservation measures.

After that, the Government will notify the Ramsar Bureau to put Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay onto the List of Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries will be the co-ordinator and future management authority of the Mai Po Ramsar Site.

Members of the public who wish to obtain more details of the proposed listing or express their views on the matter are welcome to write to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, 12th Floor, Canton Road Government Offices, 393 Canton Road or call 2733 2356 on or before April 3, 1995.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Government endeavours to minimise ACP's impact on environment

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The Government is committed to making the Airport Core Programme (ACP) projects as environmental friendly as possible, the Director of Environmental Protection, Dr Stuart Reed, said today (Monday).

Officiating at the opening ceremony of a five-day exhibition on the ACP organised by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office (NAPCO), Dr Reed said in the course of implementing the ACP projects, NAPCO and the various ACP project managers had to closely monitor the costs and progress of these mega projects, as well as shouldering the responsibility for ensuring that any adverse effects on local residents from pollution caused by the ACP construction activities were kept to a practicable minimum.

"The role of my department in all this has been to set the ground rules for minimising the pollution from construction activities and to ensure that the right measures are incorporated at the planning and design stage to make the airport and supporting infrastructure as environmentally friendly as possible, when it becomes operational.

"To help us to do this, we have required an Environmental Impact Assessment for each of the ACP projects, and special arrangements have been introduced to ensure that agreed anti-pollution measures are implemented," he said.

Dr Reed said an Environmental Project Office (ENPO) was set up in West Kowloon as a means of bringing an extra focus on compliance with agreed limits on air and water pollution and noise.

"Staff from the ENPO visit the construction sites in the West Kowloon Project Area very frequently with a view to identifying problems and taking action as early as possible.

"They also liaise with the local community and discuss their concerns about environmental problems associated with the construction works and present regular progress reports to the relevant district boards.

"This all helps us to keep a good grip on the situation and to avoid there being a gap between the promises and commitments made at the planning and design stage and the actual performance in practice," Dr Reed said.

The ACP exhibition is being held at the Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui and is opened daily from 10 am to 8 pm until Friday (March 10).

It is the 10th exhibition organised by NAPCO since August last year to keep members of the public abreast of work progress of the 10 ACP projects.

More than 150,000 people have attended the previous nine exhibitions which were held throughout the territory.

Also officiating at today's opening ceremony were the Chairman of Yau Tsim Mong District Board, Mr Chow Chun-fai; the Chairman of Sham Shui Po District Board, Mr Wong Chung-ki; and the Director of NAPCO, Mr Billy Lam.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Special Topics Report No. 11 on Social Statistics published

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Special Topics Report No. 11 on social statistics is published today (Monday).

It contains the findings of six special enquiries conducted by the Census and Statistics Department via the General Household Survey during October 1992 to December 1993.

The six topics covered in the report are labour mobility; domestic helpers; sick leave and maternity leave patterns of employees; cigarette smoking pattern; public awareness of the concept of energy efficiency; and taxi waiting time.

The report is now on sale at \$81 a copy at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, and at the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Central allocation of Primary One places

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The Education Department announced today (Monday) that all children who had applied for a public-sector Primary One place but had not secured a discretionary place would be centrally allocated to a Government or aided primary school for the 1995 school year.

They will receive a letter in the next few days from the Primary One Admission Unit of the Education Department requesting them to go to a specified distribution/collection centre to collect a "Choice of Schools" Form and a list of all Government and aided primary schools in their home district from March 11 (Saturday) to March 13 (Monday) from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm.

Completed forms should be returned to the same centre within the same period.

All distribution/collection centres will remain open during the specified time on Sunday (March 12).

Parents are reminded that if they have not received the letter from the department by March 10, they should contact the Primary One Admission Unit on 2572 4383 immediately.

Parents who have moved house recently or are planning to move house in the near future must inform the Primary One Admission Unit so that arrangements can be made to allocate a place to their children in their new home district.

The central allocation of Primary One places is solely based on parents' choices with no reference to the "Points System". However, when a school is oversubscribed, a randomisation method will be used to ensure fairness to all.

Results of the central allocation will be released in early June this year.

Meanwhile, parents are welcome to make use of the Education Department's Automatic Telephone Enquiry Service (telephone 2891 0088) for information on the Primary One Central Allocation System.

A department spokesman added that the school list to be distributed to parents at the respective centres between March 11 and 13 will show which of the schools adopt the Target Oriented Curriculum (TOC) in Primary 1. Parents who are not familiar with TOC are advised to visit a roving exhibition which is now being staged throughout the territory.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to get a more comprehensive picture of exactly how TOC will be taught and students assessed.

Sample pages of TOC learning packages, assessment forms and report forms will be displayed and a video will explain the concept and benefits of the curriculum. A full list of the 76 schools that will adopt TOC in Primary 1 in Phase I of the scheme in September this year will be displayed at the exhibition.

Parents may visit the roving exhibition at the pedestrian deck outside a cinema at Lok Fu Shopping Centre Phase II on March 7; entrance arena at Sha Tin New Town Plaza I on March 8 and 9; Level 2 shopping arcade at Metroplaza in Kwai Fong on March 10 and 11; and entrance exhibition hall at Yuen Long Plaza on March 12 and 13.

Education Department officers will be available to answer questions on TOC from visitors daily between noon and 7 pm.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

New phone number for Wage Security Unit

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The telephone number for enquiries of the Labour Department's Wage Security Unit (WSU) will be changed to 2923 5299 tomorrow (Tuesday).

The Unit verifies applications to the Protection of Wages on Insolvency Fund which provides ex gratia payments to employees who are owed wages and other employment termination benefits by their insolvent employers.

Since there is a four-month time limit for applications to be made to the Fund, employees who fall into the above category are urged to approach the Labour Relations Service (LRS) of the Department for assistance as soon as possible. Applications for ex gratia payments will be referred by the LRS to the WSU for processing.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Revised planning guidelines on conservation on sale

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Chapter 10 of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines on Conservation has recently been revised by the Government and is now available for sale.

A spokesman for the Planning Department said the revised chapter provided planning guidelines to achieve effective conservation of important natural and man-made features.

Hong Kong has extensive undeveloped tracts of natural landscape which contain a diverse habitat supporting numerous native plant species and wildlife and has a long history of human settlement from which a variety of cultural relics remain.

"The revised chapter gives a detailed account of current practices of conservation in the existing land use planning framework in Hong Kong.

"It provides guidelines for conserving and enhancing the environment by protecting the existing conservation areas and heritage features, by identifying new areas for conservation and by compensating for areas of conservation value which are lost to essential development projects.

Topics covered in the revised chapter include the general principles of conservation, measures to protect natural landscapes and habitats, historic buildings, archaeological sites and other antiquities.

The existing legislative provisions and administrative means for conservation, the enforcement mechanism, and the roles of government departments and decision-making bodies related to conservation are also covered in the chapter.

The revised chapter is now available for sale at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong at \$22 a copy.

Published in a series of 11 chapters each devoted to a particular aspect of land uses or facilities, the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines are being sold on an individual chapter basis.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Water storage figure

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Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 68.5 per cent of capacity or 401.698 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 399.761 million cubic metres of water, representing 68.2 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
	-----	-----	-----
Opening balance in the account	1,235	0930	+1,477
Closing balance in the account	2,498	1000	+1,477
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,497
Money market activity	+1,497	1200	+1,497
LAF today	-234	1500	+1,497
		1600	+1,497

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.0 *-0.4* 6.3.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills

EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds

Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.20	15 months	2605	6.35	99.56	6.84
1 month	5.39	24 months	2702	7.50	100.67	7.25
3 months	5.98	29 months	3707	6.95	99.26	7.42
6 months	6.31	35 months	3801	8.00	101.27	7.64
12 months	6.67	58 months	5912	8.15	100.62	8.15

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$10,895 million

Closed March 6, 1995

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

SCA satisfied with Municipal Councils elections

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The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Mr Nicholas Ng, said today (Monday) that yesterday's Municipal Councils (MC) elections had been satisfactory both in terms of voters' participation and electoral arrangements.

He told a media session this morning that there was clear evidence that the people of Hong Kong were civic-minded and were mature enough to choose their representatives in an orderly manner.

On voter turnout, Mr Ng said over 560,000 people came out to vote yesterday, which was 168,000 (43 per cent) more people as compared with the 1991 MC elections. The number also surpassed the voter turnout in all previous rounds of MC elections.

"The overall turnout rate of 25.8 per cent is also higher than the rate in 1991 (23.2 per cent), although we now have a much greater number of registered electors," he said.

As for electoral arrangements, Mr Ng said the elections were generally very smooth except for a few isolated incidents. He noted that there were fewer complaints this time than in last year's District Boards elections and that most of these were minor ones concerning publicity or electioneering activities.

On whether there should be a cooling-off period on polling day for the coming Legislative Council elections in view of the few isolated scuffles, he said no doubt the Boundary and Election Commission would take into account the experience gained in this election as well as public opinions before firming up the electoral procedures for the September elections.

Mr Ng added that the Commission would now concentrate its work on voter registration and on planning the electoral arrangements for the Legislative Council elections.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

BEC: Counting of votes completed smoothly and efficiently

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The following is issued on behalf of the Boundary and Election Commission:

The Chairman of the Boundary and Election Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, said the counting of votes for the Municipal Council (MC) elections was completed in a smooth and efficient manner.

He was briefing reporters this (Monday) morning at the press centre after all the results of the MC elections and the two District Board by- elections were known.

"Starting at about 11 pm last night, it takes about nine hours to finish the process of vote counting," Mr Justice Woo said.

"I am pleased to see that the counting process was conducted orderly and efficiently.

Among all the constituencies, the Chai Wan East constituency is the last to finish its counting process, with the results being announced at about 8.15 am.

Yuen Long Town Centre is the first constituency to finish its counting at about 1.30 am while Sai Kung, the district with only one constituency, completed the counting at 2.15 am.

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

1995 Urban/Regional Council elections results

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT

Constituency	Name of Candidate	No. of Votes
-----	-----	-----
Western	IP Kwok-him	7,371
	CHAN Kwok-leung	8,084 (elected)
Central	CHAN Yuk-cheung	4,186
	KAM Nai-wai	6,164 (elected)

WAN CHAI DISTRICT

Constituency	Name of Candidate	No. of Votes
-----	-----	-----
Wan Chai West	WONG Hon-ching, San Stephen	3,953 (elected)
	LI Kin-yin	2,406
Wan Chai East	WONG Ying-kay, Ada	3,182 (elected)
	WONG Cheung-chi, Thomas	143
	YEUNG Wan-king, Susanna	1,009
	TSE Wing-ling, John	2,934

EASTERN DISTRICT

Constituency	Name of Candidate	No. of Votes
-----	-----	-----
North Point West	WOO Yan-wai, Mathias	2,719
	CHAN Tak-wai	1,163
	CHOW Kit-bing, Jennifer	3,370 (elected)
	YUEN King-yuk	749
North Point East	WONG Kwok-hing	6,718 (elected)
	SHING Wai-pong	1,453
Quarry Bay	LAI Chi-keong, Joseph	5,937 (elected)
	KONG Tze-wing	3,125
	YUEN Ki-kong	1,861
Shau Kei Wan	FU Yuen-cheung, Alexander	1,716
	HUI Ka-hoo	1,352
	TO Boon-man, Daniel	2,860 (elected)
	CHUM Ting-pong	367

Chai Wan West	CHAO Shing-kie	4,417
	CHAN Tim-shing, Manuel	5,047 (elected)
Chai Wan East	CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher	7,477 (elected)
	TSANG Kin-shing	4,994

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Constituency	Name of Candidate	No. of Votes
-----	-----	-----
Aberdeen and Bays Area	CHAN Yuek-sut, Joseph	Uncontested
Ap Lei Chau	WONG Man-chiu, Ronnie	4,901 (elected)
	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	4,520
Pokfulam and Wah Fu	TSE Wong Siu-yin, Elizabeth	2,229
	LAI Hok-lim	5,696 (elected)

YAU TSIM MONG DISTRICT

Constituency	Name of Candidate	No. of Votes
-----	-----	-----
Yau Tsim	WONG Kwok-tung	5,775 (elected)

	AHUJA, Gopaldas Holaram	1,721
	LI King-wah	1,140
	CHUNG Yee-fong, Helen	785
	FOO Pui-man	189
Mong Kok	LAW Wing-cheung	3,536
	CHAN Kwok-ming	2,399
	CHAN Man-yu, Henry	530
	NG Wing-fai, Stanley	4,656 (elected)

SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Sham Shui Po West	HA Ving-vung	6,734
	CHEUNG Wing-sum, Ambrose	6,791 (elected)
Sham Shui Po Central	WONG Chung-ki, Eric	Uncontested
Sham Shui Po East	TAM Kwok-kiu	Uncontested

KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Kowloon City North	LEE Cheuk-fan	1,863
	LEUNG Ding-bong, Ronald	4,815 (elected)
Kowloon City East	WEN Choy-bon	3,607 (elected)
	LAM Ming	3,114
Kowloon City South	PAO Ping-wing	4,224 (elected)
	FUNG King-man, Virginia	3,447
Kowloon City West	WONG Siu-yee	5,533
	CHIANG Sai-cheong	6,275 (elected)

WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Wang Tung and Lok Tin	MOK Ying-fan	Uncontested
Wong Tai Sin and Chuk Yuen	LAM Man-fai	9,088 (elected)

	TO Kwan-hang, Andrew	7,120
Tsz Wan Shan and San Po Kong	KAN Chi-ho	4,402
	CHOI Luk-sing	3,332
	LEE Kwok-keung	5,171 (elected)
Choi Hung Wan and Ngau Chi Wan	CHAN Chun-fat	1,770
	YEUNG Lai-yin, Cecilia	2,671
	WU Chi-wai	6,595 (elected)

KWUN TONG DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Kwun Tong West	AU Yuk-har, Grace	8,047 (elected)
	CHAN Kam-lam	7,204
Kwun Tong North	TU Elsie	6,778
	SZETO Wah	9,175 (elected)
Shun Sau	KWOK Bit-chun	8,725 (elected)
	LAW Chun-ngai	6,030

Kwun Tong Central	KAN Wing-kay	3,462
	HUNG Chung-fun, Steven	5,884 (elected)
Kwun Tong South	NG Siu-wah	4,161
	LI Wah-ming	6,798 (elected)
Lam Tin	YIU Cheuk-hung	4,058
	LI Ting-kit	1,556
	TANG Chi-ho, Francis	4,237 (elected)

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Tsuen Wan West	LIU Cheung-hin	1,496
	CHENG Wing-kee, Wellington	5,183 (elected)
	IP YEUNG Fuk-lan	3,270
Tsuen Wan Central	WONG Yin-ping	192
	AU-YEUNG Po-chun	3,031
	KWONG Kwok-chuen, Cosmas	4,811 (elected)
	YOUNG Fuk-ki, Sarena	1,012

Tsuen Wan East	CHAN Yuen-sum, Sumly	5,772 (elected)
	YEUNG Fuk-kwong	4,095

TUEN MUN DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Tuen Mun East	CHAN Wan-sang	5,063
	CHEUNG Yuet-lan	5,475 (elected)
Tuen Mun West	SHUNG King-fai	1,481
	YIM Tin-sang	8,278 (elected)
Tuen Mun Central	CHAN Yau-hoi	5,062
	HO Chun-yan	9,599 (elected)
Tuen Mun North	FUNG Yau-wai	4,431
	CHAN Shu-ying, Josephine	5,877 (elected)

YUEN LONG DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Tin Shui Wai	LEUNG Che-cheung	4,256 (elected)
	CHEUNG Yin-tung	4,186
Yuen Long Town Centre	NGAN Kam-chuen	6,345 (elected)
	MAK Ip-sing	4,879
Yuen Long Town Rural	CHING Chan-ming	3,868
	TANG Wai-ming	4,831
	LEE Keng-yip	5,378 (elected)

NORTH DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Sheung Shui	WONG Sing-chi	4,940 (elected)
	AU Wai-kwan	3,471
	CHEUNG Kan-kwai	2,931

Fanling and Sha Ta	TIK Chi-yuen	5,980
	CHEUNG Hon-chung	7,217 (elected)

TAI PO DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Tai Po West	WONG Chi-keung, Johnny	6,096 (elected)
	FUNG Chi-wood	4,527
Tai Po Central	CHENG Chun-ping	uncontested
Tai Po East	CHAN Ping	5,114 (elected)
	CHEUNG Wing-fai	3,994

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Sai Kung Rural and Tak Fu	WAN Yuet-cheung	Uncontested
Tseung Kwan O	LAM Wing-yin	7,165 (elected)
	LING Man-hoi	3,508

SHA TIN DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Ma On Shan	Chan To-yeung	3,965 (elected)
	Wong Mo-tai	3,722
	Li Po-ming	1,826
Sha Tin East	CHOW Wai-tung	6,862 (elected)
	HO Sau-mo	2,813
	FU Sze-wai, Raymond	1,604
Sha Tin North	PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas	5,420 (elected)
	KONG Wood-chiu	2,214
	LEE York-fai	3,774
Sha Tin South	CHAN Yuet-hung, Monnie	4,501
	LAM Hong-wah	6,016 (elected)
Sha Tin West	TONG Po-chun	2,791
	HO Hau-cheung	4,530
	CHING Cheung-ying	5,381 (elected)

KWAI TSING DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Upper Kwai Chung	TAM King-wah, Alan	5,365 (elected)
	TSUI Wing-cheung	2,168
Kwai Chung Central	LEUNG Kwong-cheong	7,202 (elected)
	CHUNG Man-fai	6,362
Tsing Yi South & Lower Kwai Chung	WONG Yiu-chung	6,342
	TING Yin-wah	7,058 (elected)
Tsing Yi North	LEE Wing-tat	6,810 (elected)
	KWOK Wai-ling	2,558

ISLANDS DISTRICT

Constituency -----	Name of Candidate -----	No. of Votes -----
Islands	LEE Kwai-chun	Uncontested

End/ Monday, March 6, 1995

1995 District Board by-election results

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Lower Ngau Tau Kok constituency of Kwun Tong district

Name of candidate	No. of votes
-----	-----
Mr Wong Kin-man	1,576 (elected)
Mr Chan Kok-wah, Ben	1,481

End/Monday, March 6, 1995

1995 District Board by-election results

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Yau Ma Tei constituency of Yau Tsim Mong district

Name of candidate	No. of votes
-----	-----
Ms Ng Po-shan, Austen	887 (elected)
Mr Wong Sui-man	484
Ms Lai Yuen-ching	454
Mr Liu Kwong-sang	182

End/Monday, March 6, 1995